

1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A procedure for transferring heat between a plurality of~~two or more~~ stations of a system for manufacturing tobacco products, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

cooling a manufacturing station by circulating at least one heat exchange fluid procured from a source located externally of the station;

directing the heat exchange fluid from the cooled manufacturing station to a station for the primary processing of at least one raw forming material, ~~in order to~~ heat the primary processing station.

14. (Currently Amended) A procedure as in claim 13, wherein the step of cooling the manufacturing station includes the step of cooling a plurality of at least one of machines and/or devices operating internally of the station and generating heat.

15. (Original) A procedure as in claim 14, wherein the step of cooling the machines and/or devices in the manufacturing station involves cooling all the machines and/or devices simultaneously.

16. (Previously Presented) A procedure as in claim 13, wherein the step of heating the primary processing station is followed by a step of releasing the heat exchange fluid to an external discharge station.

17. (Currently Amended) A procedure as in claim 13, wherein the step of cooling the manufacturing station ~~comprises~~ consists in a continuous process ~~accomplished by circulating~~ the heat exchange fluid drawn continuously from the source ~~of supply~~.

18. (Currently Amended) A procedure as in claim 13, wherein the step of heating the primary processing station is brought about continuously by directing the heat exchange fluid into the ~~selfsame~~ station after being heated in the manufacturing station.

19-20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A procedure as in claim 14, wherein the step of heating the primary processing station is followed by a step of releasing the heat exchange fluid to an external discharge station.

22. (New) A procedure as in claim 21, wherein the step of cooling the manufacturing station comprises a continuous process circulating the heat exchange fluid drawn continuously from the source.

23. (New) A procedure as in claim 22, wherein the step of heating the primary processing station is brought about continuously by directing the heat exchange fluid into the station after being heated in the manufacturing station.

24. (New) A procedure as in claim 15, wherein the step of heating the primary processing station is followed by a step of releasing the heat exchange fluid to an external discharge station.

25. (New) A procedure as in claim 24, wherein the step of cooling the manufacturing station comprises a continuous process circulating the heat exchange fluid drawn continuously from the source.

26. (New) A procedure as in claim 25, wherein the step of heating the primary processing station is brought about continuously by directing the heat exchange fluid into the station after being heated in the manufacturing station.

27. (New) A procedure as in claim 14, wherein the step of cooling the manufacturing station comprises a continuous process circulating the heat exchange fluid drawn continuously from the source.

28. (New) A procedure as in claim 27, wherein the step of heating the primary processing station is brought about continuously by directing the heat exchange fluid into the station after being heated in the manufacturing station.

29. (New) A procedure as in claim 15, wherein the step of cooling the manufacturing station comprises a continuous process circulating the heat exchange fluid drawn continuously from the source.

30. (New) A procedure as in claim 29, wherein the step of heating the primary processing station is brought about continuously by directing the heat exchange fluid into the station after being heated in the manufacturing station.

31. (New) A procedure as in claim 14, wherein the step of heating the primary processing station is brought about continuously by directing the heat exchange fluid into the station after being heated in the manufacturing station.

32. (New) A procedure as in claim 15, wherein the step of heating the primary processing station is brought about continuously by directing the heat exchange fluid into the station after being heated in the manufacturing station.

33. (New) A procedure as in claim 16, wherein the step of heating the primary processing station is brought about continuously by directing the heat exchange fluid into the station after being heated in the manufacturing station.

34. (New) A procedure as in claim 17, wherein the step of heating the primary processing station is brought about continuously by directing the heat exchange fluid into the station after being heated in the manufacturing station.